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THE COLBY ECHO
COLBY COLLEGE
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Echh photo by Tina Zabitskie

After a speech he gave on March 29, Former CIA agent John Stockwell talked informally with students in Given Auditorium.

CIA whistle-blower speaks

by BILL TWOMEY

Former CIA agent John Stockwell gave a chilling speech in Colby's Given Auditorium last week about the atrocities committed by the CIA in their many corrupt and illegal covert activities.

The Wednesday night lecture was arranged by Stu-A and Colby Cultural Life.

Stockwell, the author of three books, now spends his time writing, lecturing, and demonstrating against the CIA. His first book, IN SEARCH OF ENEMIES, for which the CIA sued Stockwell, depicts the inhumane and compromising values of the organization. The books profits' were also impounded by the government.

Stockwell joined the CIA in 1964 but quit in 1977 due to their continuous acts of corruption overseas as well as within the United States. At that time he wrote his book. He served the Marine Corps for 19 years during which Stockwell was also working for the CIA.

His education

In the late 1950's Stockwell received a scholarship and joined the ROTC at which time he was rising in the ranks of the Marine Corps. He signed up for an education program called "Plan 2" but was only half educated. With the Korean War over, Stockwell knew nothing of the war's cynicism or of the world's horrors, he only knew of it's idealism and beauty. After 3 years of education overseas, Stockwell returned home to Colorado to become a research analyst. It was then that the CIA asked for Stockwell's employment.

Of course they had researched his past very thoroughly. Stockwell stated, however, "they probably never knew that when I was 15 and living in the Congo, I belonged to the BBCP, the Big Boys Communist Party."

Stockwell told how the CIA rapidly educated him on its many techniques dealing with the public, various governments and third world nations. In 1964, faced with the challenge of helping his country, Stockwell learned about business, Marxism and international affairs.

He didn't know that at the time the press was writing the CIA's ideas in the papers and were indirectly responsible for promoting CIA propoganda.

For six months, Stockwell studied Communist theories and the fight against Marxism during his training, He learned how to run spy operations and later took aptitude tests to be among "the best, the brightest... the elite." The training was very competitive and demanding. When Stockwell asked one of this teachers "How much killing does the CIA really do?", the reply was "They don't do that sort of thing in the United States."

Agents, not spies

Soon Stockwell learned that the CIA did not employ "spies" but "agents". They did not "seduce people to betray their country but only asked them to help it." They did not give bribes to induce people to talk but gave them benefits for their sacrifice in helping their country.

Eventually Stockwell learned how to recruit people who could be useful to the CIA and he learned how to appeal to different people by carefully studying their character. Agents were most importantly taught to always trust the U.S. and to distrust Russia or any Communist country in any situation.

For six years Stockwell lived in Africa to construct a spy network. Although its politics were considered "boring," Africa was a safer place than Europe to keep a watch on Russia and China. One of Stockwell's agents (who remained anonymous) knew many people in the country and also had a cousin involved in establishing a coup. Stockwell's investigations prevented this from happening but also caused his agent's death. Later, Stockwell received an honorable promotion for his achievement.

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The CIA could always justify its actions and was never apologetic about them. At one time, Stockwell's boss would take various poor people from a crowd and torture them in the most gruesome way. Wherever they were, the CIA was always there to support "security interests." It had a high standing in the State Department which often gave the CIA its credibility. Stockwell was promoted to the Russian division but was not assigned to any "hard targets" immediately.

The Chief of Kenya arranged Stockwell's meetings and contacts. The CIA would train capable special access agents (more commonly known as prostitutes) to uncover information from ambassadors or representatives from China or Russia. Many of these agents were found in Miami at which the Republican convention was held.

One such agent reported to the CIA that one Russian representative was alcoholic and impotent. Somehow the CIA already knew this. In 1973, Stockwell was divorced from his wife and later sent to Vietnam on a mission. A cease-fire was supposed to be in effect but the killing continued.

Much corruption

The world was becoming a very serious and frightening place for Stockwell. He said he saw a great deal of corruption in the military with various officers dealing in heroin, trading with the Russians and committing fraud. However, he was restricted from reporting the truth, if he knew it at all.

In 1975, South Vietnam collapsed causing a shameful evacuation. Washington ordered the CIA to leave any employees and to burn all files immediately. The U.S. could not take any responsibility for the disaster. Stockwell felt that the U.S. "didn't place the same value on Vietnamese lives as they did on American lives." One of Stockwell's bosses said that "they couldn't help being born Vietnamese." After seeing and experiencing the suffering in Vietnam, Stockwell began to speak out against the CIA.

Back in America, he was confused and stunned but was nevertheless given a mission in Angola, a career break which could have lead to a position on the National Security Council. Stockwell declared Kissinger to be one of the most famous unknown mass murderers.

The CIA's indecisive actions led to many deaths in Angola but it merely lied to the United Nations, and Congress as well as the public, says Stockwell. The CIA denied any involvement in the mercenaries' killings in Angola.

20,000 operators

In the past 35 years, the CIA had had over 20,000 covert operations. The destabilization of Chile and Nicaragua and the bombing of Cambodia were among the many secrets kept from America. He charged that the U.S. burned sugar crops in Cuba when Castro came into power and refused American influence. Of course Cuba could not retaliate since the naive public would label them terrorists. The CIA also taught many Central American countries the most effective forms of interrogation (a term of military torture). If any of the victims happened to die, they would be thrown into the street to conceal CIA involvement, the ex-agent alleged. They also released disease on many cities to observe its effects on people.

The U.S. has been very receptive to CIA tactics of hating and distrusting any Communist country.

In 1980, Stockwell testified against many agents involved in covert acts. "There is hope if only people rise up to save themselves," he said. People seem to want to believe in their governments and it is only when they begin to question these institutions that they can improve them and save themselves, he concluded.

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